

RESOURCES

NATURE, HISTORY AND HORTICULTURE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

VOLUME 4, NO.2 SPRING 2004

The Otherworldly Roar of the Cicadas

By Jim Pomeroy, Naturalist, Hidden Pond Nature Center

They are coming. Millions of large cicadas, which have been quietly living off the juices of tree roots for the past 17 years, begin this spring to slowly work their way towards the surface of the ground. Prompted by an internal clock that can somehow record the passing of the years, the nymphal stage of *Magicicada septendecem* — otherwise known as the 17-year cicada — prepares to complete the final stages of their life cycle. Right on target, the last time this event occurred in Northern Virginia was 1987. According to notes from the Hidden Pond Nature Center at that time, the first cicada nymphs will crawl out of the ground on or around May 16th. About one inch long and rather stout, they will pull themselves a few feet up a tree trunk or anything else handy, and begin the process of becoming an adult. The skin which has protected them underground will split down the back and the winged adult will emerge.

The males “sing” with a kind of buzz or whirring noise to attract a mate. When performed solo, this singing is not very loud. But cicada males sing in chorus, and when millions of them get together, the result is an otherworldly noise reminiscent of the background sound effect of a science-fiction movie.

An acre may have as many as one million singing cicadas, so we will be talking loudly to be heard over this din.

Cicadas do not sting or bite; they do fly, though not very well. Their slow, lumbering flight carries them into buildings, cars, people, and ultimately into the six arms or legs of a receptive mate. The noise and activity will reach a peak during the first week of June, then during the weeks that follow, the activity will gradually taper off. After mating, females cut a slit into twigs 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter, and deposit their eggs in them. Sixteen or so eggs may be laid in one branch, with up to 400 eggs being laid by each female at 40 to 50 sites. These eggs will hatch in about six weeks. The tiny larvae will then drop to the ground and burrow down to



Sporting clear wings with bright orange veins, a large black body and striking, protruding red eyes, they are attractive mainly to each other and entomologists.

the roots of a tree. They will remain underground for the next 17 years, and may burrow as deep as 10 feet.

All of this activity will leave a very visible mark upon the landscape. The incisions made for egg laying will cause the leaves at the end of the twig to turn brown. The brown clusters of leaves are known as flags, and a large tree covered with flags is a very sorry sight that will last throughout this growing season. The good news is that the damage is not permanent.

Next year, this incredible natural phenomenon will be just a memory. A careful look at the twigs will reveal scars which

CICADAS continued on page 8

Tips for Cicada Season

Remember, cicadas don't bite or sting. So if one gets into the house, just sweep it out the door, or sweep them off the sidewalks. Don't spray them with pesticides. As Leon Nawojchik, manager of Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, reminds us, *The cicadas are a natural phenomenon that will pass (like a thunderstorm)!*

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SPRING OUT THE DOOR

*It's been a tooth-chattering, coat-clutching winter.
But now it's time to spring out the door and enjoy the whole blooming season.*

Burke Lake Park
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

Colvin Run Mill
10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

Frying Pan Park
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

Green Spring Gardens Park
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

Hidden Pond Nature Center
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

Lake Accotink Park
7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

Lake Fairfax Park
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

Riverbend Park
8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

Sully Historic Site
Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

Need directions or more information?
Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

Mother's Day Cruise

Sunday, May 9th, 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 6pm

Take Mom on a lovely cruise around Lake Accotink Park. Cruise the shoreline while listening to an interpretive history of the park, lake and surrounding area. Beverages served on board. Boarding fees are \$3.50 for moms, \$7 for other adults and \$4 for children. Reservations required. For more information, call **703-569-0285**.

Green Spring Gardens' Markets

Saturdays from April 3rd to May 8th, 9am – 1pm

Don't miss out on the newly expanded Green Spring Gardens' Markets featuring hard-to-find plant varieties (fresh from local green-houses to you that morning), cultivation tips and recommendations right from the grower, and Green Spring Master Gardeners on hand to help solve your gardening problems. Buy as many plants as you can carry, but save time to shop for gardening tools and ornaments. Located in the Green Spring parking lot near the Horticulture Center. While you're there, find out about Green Spring's horticulture programs and events.

Get Involved

When you volunteer, you join hundreds of dedicated (and fun!) folks who share your love of the outdoors and Virginia's rich history. Call your local park (as listed above) or call/e-mail the following volunteer coordinators to learn more:

VOLUNTEERING
erin.chernisky@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-8750

ARCHAEOLOGY AND COLLECTIONS, CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION
robert.wharton@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-787-3778

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM
sandra.flowers@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-941-7987

For park philanthropy and corporate gifts:

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK FOUNDATION
supportparks@aol.com
703-324-8581



Hay Ewe! It's Frying Pan Farm Days

For the first time last year, Frying Pan Park turned their one-day farm interpretive event into four delightful days of fun and learning. On these days, visitors watch or get hands-on experience in many traditional farm practices, such as milking cows or shearing sheep. They're launching the program this year with even more opportunities to learn about farming, agriculture, animal husbandry and history on this unique working farm. Farm Days run from 10am to 3pm.

Farm Baby Day April 24
Sheep and Wool Festival May 8
Dairy Day June 12
4-H Fair and Farm Show August 7-8

Equal Access/ Special Accommodations

The Fairfax County Park Authority is committed to equal access in all programs and services. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call the ADA/Access coordinator at 703-324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the date services are needed.

ADA/Access Coordinator
703-324-8563
TTY 703-803-3354
www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/ada.htm

RESOURCES

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Visit **ResOURces** online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources

 **ResOURces** is printed on 100% recycled paper.

*Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers
who power our parks on a daily basis!*

National Volunteer Week • April 18-24, 2004

Rolling Thunder® Rolls Into Fairfax County



Fairfax County Parks play host to veterans attending Rolling Thunder

Along with the roar of the cicadas this year, we'll be welcoming the roar of the annual Rolling Thunder® Run over Memorial Day Weekend. During the annual ride, motorcyclists from across the country ride to the Viet Nam Memorial in Washington, DC to pay their respects to those who died and

show their support for prisoners of war and those missing in action (POW/MIA). To and from, hundreds of the riders camp out at Fairfax County Parks. The vets are quick to compliment our welcoming park staff and the parks themselves. *I really like Burke Lake*, said Georgian Rodger Bowen during his last visit, adding, *It's the most beautiful park I've ever seen*.

The "Objects of Our Affections" Star in the Curator's Choice Lecture Series on Decorative Arts in Early America

The team at Sully has lined up outstanding speakers for the series:

Furniture Saturday, April 3rd features Bruce Schuettinger, Maryland furniture conservator. He will be discussing characteristics of American Federal Period Furniture. The Federal Period is broadly defined as 1792-1820 and is typified by Sheraton and Hepplewhite pieces. Enjoy a specialized tour of Sully highlighting Lee pieces and other period antiques.



Celebrate silver at Sully's "Curator's Choice" lecture series

Ceramics Saturday, April 17th features archaeologist Barbara Magid from the Alexandria Archaeology Museum speaking about 18th and early 19th century ceramics. Ceramics were the Tupperware, Pyrex and sandwich bags of their day. Learn about the types and uses of ceramics and then see Sully's collection in the 1794 house and outbuildings.

Silver Saturday, May 1st features Jennifer Goldsborough, former Chief Curator at the Maryland Historical Society. "Celebrate Silver!" is the focus of this lecture. Afterward, see silver pieces from the Fairfax County Park Authority collection.

Each lecture, from 9am - noon, will be complemented by a specialized tour of the 1794 house and refreshments. The cost for each lecture is \$20. Sign up for all three lectures and receive a \$5 discount. Prepaid reservations are required. For information and registration, please call Sully at 703-437-1794.

Spring Wish List

Got a few hours to spare? Can your place of business donate some hardware? Then you can make a wish come true for our parks. For many volunteer positions, you can volunteer as often as daily or as little as once every two weeks. Training provided. Call the park's Volunteer Manager for more information.

Colvin Run Mill

Our spring wish is for Sunday volunteers, especially Touring Docents to lead small groups on tours of the mill. Call 703-759-2771.

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

Gardeners! We are looking for folks to volunteer alone or in groups to tend our display gardens. Call 703-631-0013.

Frying Pan Park

We could really use some tractor repair volunteers, and youth volunteers to do farm chores on Saturday and Tuesday mornings 8am to 10am (Tuesdays over summer). Call 703-437-9101.

Green Spring Gardens Park

We are always looking for volunteers to help with gardening and special events. Call 703-642-5173.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

We are wishing for some new Volunteers-On-Duty to welcome visitors to our new interactive exhibit. Call 703-941-1065.

Hidden Pond Nature Center

We're wishing for hardware — a laptop for Power Point presentations (so we can say good-bye to slides) and a video projector. Call 703-451-9588.

Huntley Meadows Park

A View from the Tower (VFT) volunteer position is currently open — perfect for wildlife fans who enjoy interacting with the public. This volunteer provides natural history interpretation on the observation tower and boardwalk. Spanish language skills are helpful. Call 703-768-2525.

Riverbend Park

At Riverbend, we need a Volunteer-on-Duty to greet the public at the Visitor Center on the Potomac River, and a Weekday Program Leader to lead programs for school children. Call 703-759-9018.

Sully Historic Site

We need 30 to 50 three-ring binders (two-inch) for our volunteer training manuals. Call 703-437-1794.

Grow Native when Planting and Landscaping

Watch Out for Invaders in Your Garden

By Pat Henley, Green Spring Master Gardener



The bright red cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) is a lovely alternative for the invasive plant, purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).



Native azaleas (*Rhododendron* spp.) are a good alternative for winged burning bush (*Euonymus alata*).



The invasive English ivy (*Hedera helix*) has overrun many woodland areas.

Everyone wants plants in the garden that are attractive, easy to grow, spread rapidly, and tolerate or thrive in poor soil or difficult growing conditions. But some plants become habitat hogs and these are the ones that are considered to be “invasives.” Invasives dominate and eventually change the habitat, impacting and even destroying existing plants and the animals that depend on them. A once-thriving diverse natural community of plants, animals and insects can be reduced to a stretch of a single, invasive species. And it’s costly — in the US, millions of dollars are spent each year to combat the effects of invasive plants.

What makes a plant invasive?

- Lots of seeds that promote rapid growth and rampant spreading
- Tolerates many types of soil and weather conditions
- Competes with and overruns native species
- Is difficult and expensive to remove or control

Here’s how you can grow native when landscaping and gardening.

- Garden or landscape with non-invasive plants or native plants; it’s easier to prevent problems than try to correct them.
- Remove invasives from your property, or at least keep them from spreading. This may mean mowing or cutting back to prevent flowering and thus avoid seed development.
- In natural areas, minimize soil disturbance by replanting disturbed areas as soon as possible with native plants.
- If you live next to a woodland or natural area, learn about and use native plants.
- Educate! Increase awareness in your neighborhood.

These excellent websites will help you identify invasive plants and suggest native alternatives:

U.S. National Arboretum: www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/invasives.html

The Virginia Native Plant Society: www.vnps.org/invasive.html

The Maryland Native Plant Society: www.mdflora.org/publications/invasives

Here are some common invasives in the Virginia area and beautiful alternatives.

Invasive Plants

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a major problem in wetlands and along streambeds.

Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) is an infamous aggressor in the South, but Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*), and porcelain-berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) are also invasive.

English ivy (*Hedera helix*) has overrun many woodlands and national parks.

Winged burning bush (*Euonymus alata*) is a popular landscaping plant. Unfortunately, it is also popular with birds, who seed it throughout the countryside.

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a weedy tree found in new construction sites as well as abandoned lots — just about any place where the ground has been disturbed. Growing rapidly, it will shade out other developing plants. It also produces a toxin that affects the surrounding soil, so nearby plants will not thrive.

Native Alternatives

Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*, *V. gigantea*).

Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

Wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) or yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*). For sunny spots try: Gro-low sumac (*Rhus aromatica* ‘Gro-Low’) or moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*).

Native azaleas (*Rhododendron* spp.), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata*), and beautybush (*Callicarpa americana*).

Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), or native viburnums (*Viburnum prunifolium*, *V. rufidulum*).

The Riverbend Park and Potomac Conservancy Partnership

By Jim Dewing, Naturalist, Riverbend Park

The staff and volunteers at Riverbend Park and the Potomac Conservancy have a lot in common. They share a passion and concern for the health and welfare of the mighty Potomac River and a five-year-strong partnership caring for the river and its eco-system.

Riverbend Park has approximately two miles of precious land and trails along the Potomac River. Here are just a few of the projects the partnership works on.

Riverbank Restoration

The Potomac Conservancy has helped supply Riverbend with tools and plant materials to replenish and reinforce the riverbank, in particular, bank areas that have been eroded by the river or through overuse. Materials include tree seedlings, shrubs, shovels, and picks. The Conservancy and Riverbend work together on design and implementation of the project. Riverbend supplies the hard work, often generously donated by local Eagle Scout troops under the guidance of Riverbend naturalists.

Growing Native

Growing Native is an annual event coordinated by the Conservancy to increase the supply of native hardwood tree seedlings available for forest restoration projects. Riverbend serves as a drop-off site for native tree seeds such as walnuts, acorns and hickory nuts that can be supplied to the state nursery in Crimora, Virginia. This helps to fulfill the growing demand for native plants in the area. Going full circle, seeds from the state nursery will eventually be returned to Riverbend as seedlings for the park and other resource management projects.

The Potomac Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that protects lands vital to the health, beauty and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. The Conservancy does this by providing conservation solutions and hands-on restoration opportunities throughout the Potomac River watershed. This includes a comprehensive land protection program, providing counseling and conservation support services to more than 70 other land trusts across four states and the District of Columbia, and fostering stewardship education.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network

Riverbend Park and the Conservancy serve as partners in developing interpretive signage and public education about the Potomac through the Chesapeake Bay Network. The network itself is administered by the National Park Service and is concerned with restoration through interpretation and education projects about the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Potomac River is the Chesapeake Bay's second largest tributary and the segment adjoining the county is the Upper Potomac Estuary (or tidal basin).

To date, Riverbend and Huntley Meadows parks have been approved as Gateway Network Sites, which makes them eligible for interpretation and education grants through the Gateway Network.

For more information, call or email:

Riverbend Park 703-759-9018
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/nature.htm

Growing Native 301-608-1188, ext. 207
www.growingnative.org

Potomac Conservancy 301-608-1188
www.potomac.org

A GROWING TREND

Using native plants when planting and gardening is a growing trend among developers and landscapers. Nursery owners are stocking up on native plants to meet the demand for them by homeowners.



Highlights of the Natural Resource Management Plan

As the county's largest landowner (with almost 22,500 acres in more than 388 parks), much of the responsibility for preserving Fairfax County's rich natural and cultural resource heritage rests with the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Park Authority holds this heritage as a public trust to preserve for current and future generations.

— Natural Resource Management Plan, 2004-2008

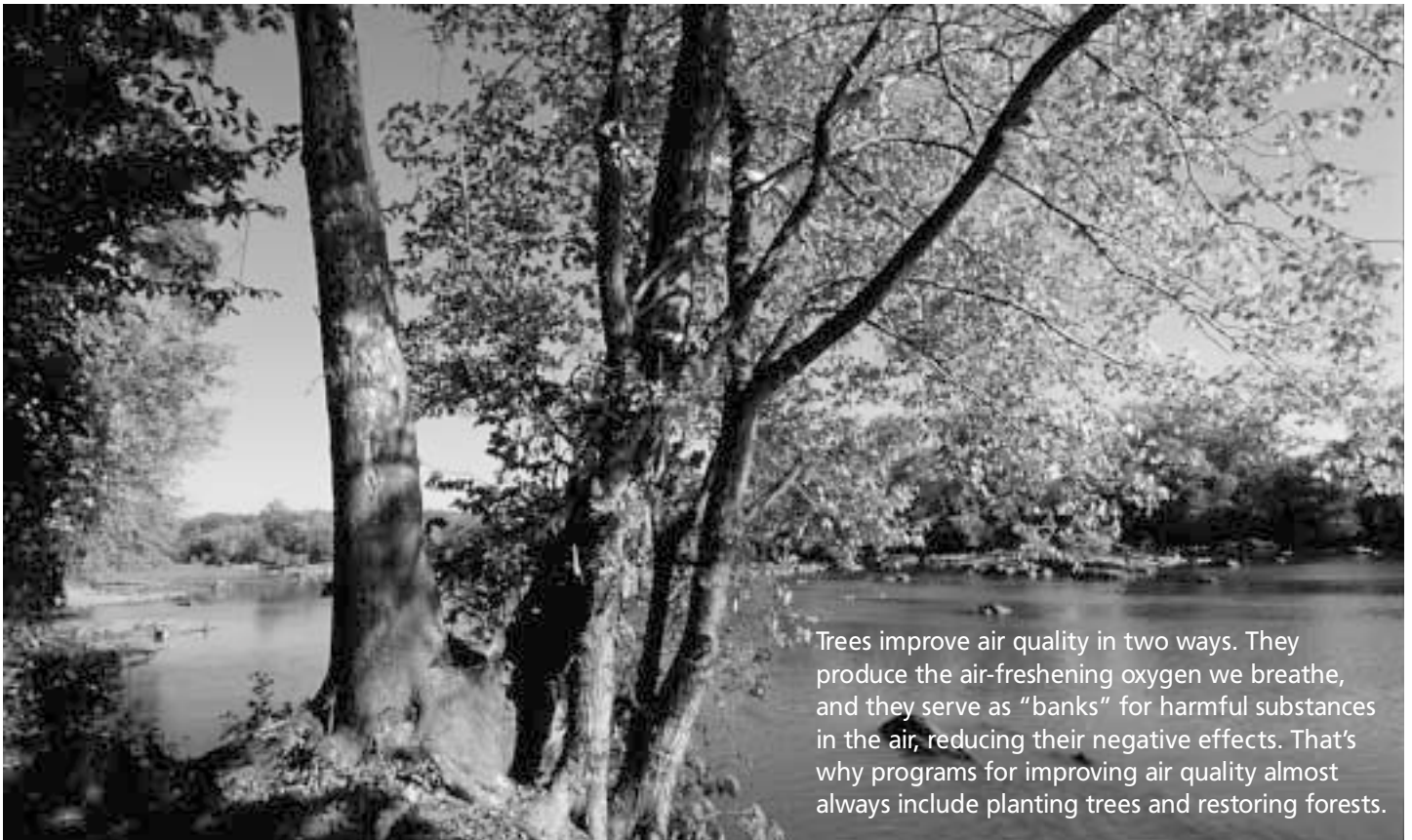
And that's what the Natural Resource Management Plan is all about. In 2003, only about 26,000 acres of county land (excluding parkland) remained undeveloped. That's only about nine percent of Fairfax County. As this undeveloped land shrinks away, parklands play a critical role in preserving what's left.

Park Authority Leadership

Traditionally, resource management plans are done on a park-by-park basis. Preparing an agency-wide plan for a large, suburban park system is a fairly new concept. In addition to resource management, the plan also covers the vital role of volunteers and partnerships, as well as cooperative efforts with other county agencies; such as the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and the Department of Planning and Zoning. Following are highlights of the plan's elements and goals.

Natural Resource Planning: This section talks about the "big picture." It sets up the necessary policies and procedures for gathering vital information about parklands, such as natural resource inventories, along with establishing categories for natural and developed parkland. This enables the Park Authority to make the most effective and informed decisions about resource management, with an eye on best practice and effective partnerships.

Vegetation: Fairfax County retains areas of rich vegetative diversity, often found on parklands. This element of the plan is about knowing what kinds of plants are on parklands (taking inventories), monitoring their health, and managing vegetation for long-term vitality. This involves preserving rare and significant plants, and controlling invasive plants that threaten the natural environment.



Trees improve air quality in two ways. They produce the air-freshening oxygen we breathe, and they serve as "banks" for harmful substances in the air, reducing their negative effects. That's why programs for improving air quality almost always include planting trees and restoring forests.

Wildlife: Thanks to conservation efforts, Fairfax County still has a rich diversity of wildlife in our parks, including river otter, bald eagle, fox, deer, beaver, reptiles, amphibians and birds. This element involves assessing the health of parkland animal populations, helping to preserve rare and significant wildlife, promoting bird and other habitats, and using best practice to mitigate and resolve wildlife conflicts within the community.

Water Resources: Water resource preservation is one of the most important issues facing the county. Fairfax County has 980 miles of streams, many of which have been dramatically degraded over time by pollution, stormwater runoff and erosion. This element of the plan focuses on preserving water quality, rebuilding and revitalizing stream valleys, and protecting county streams, ponds, wetlands and rivers from further degradation or destruction.

Air Quality: With an increased number of Code Red air pollution days in Northern Virginia, increased attention is being given to air quality. This element covers ways and strategies by which the Fairfax County Park Authority can be a good partner and support the efforts of other government agencies striving to improve air quality.

Human Impact on Parkland: This part of the plan covers two areas. The first is how to plan parks for the comfort and enjoyment of citizens, while protecting natural, fragile resources at the same

time. This latter part involves mitigating the damage done to parklands through overuse or improper use, such as encroachment (e.g., dumping grass clippings or cutting down plants on parklands), littering, and vandalism.

Education: Even though this is the last element listed in the plan, it is one of the most important. It involves stewardship education, ways to inform you and me, our children, Fairfax County employees and citizens of the simple things we can do to help the Park Authority protect our natural resources and quality of life in Fairfax County.

To read the entire Natural Resource Management Plan, go to *ResOURces Online* at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources.



Thank You, Lee Stephenson

After 25 years of adventures with the Park Authority, Lee Stephenson, director of the Resource Management Division, has retired to blaze some new trails. Stephenson was instrumental in turning the Natural Resource Management Plan into reality.

Taking Healthy Action to Improve Unhealthy Air

By Ron Pearson and Heather Melchior

What is smog anyway?

Ground level ozone, commonly referred to as smog, is formed when two types of compounds, nitrogen oxides (Nox) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) undergo chemical reactions in heat and sunlight. These compounds form ozone. Ozone is released into our air through hundreds of activities that are a part of everyday life.

Too many **CODE RED** days? Absolutely. Unhealthy ozone doesn't just affect you and your family, it affects our parklands, posing a threat to delicate birds, plants, water and wildlife.

In an effort to reduce the ground level ozone, the County Board of Supervisors approved a number of initiatives to be implemented for the 2004 ozone season.

The Park Authority is doing its share, taking strong actions to improve the air we breathe.

On the action agenda:

- Replace current fuel cans with environmentally friendly cans that prevent fuel spills and evaporation.
- Purchase four-cycle trim mowing equipment that is more fuel efficient.
- Restrict mowing on Code Red days.
- Use fuel-efficient gas vehicles or other hybrid vehicles.
- Plant trees on parklands and increase meadow areas.
- Increase number of employees that telework.
- Use recycled building materials where appropriate.

- Use paints that contain low or no volatile organic compounds.

Think Cleaner Air When Doing Yard Work and Gardening

- Avoid spilling gasoline. Use a funnel or spout to prevent spills. Even small spills evaporate and pollute the air.
- Consider using ground covers like plants, shrubs and trees to reduce mowing turf.
- Use new, cleaner equipment such as rechargeable mowers or solar options that don't use gasoline.
- Use low-maintenance turf grasses that grow slowly and require less mowing. Keep your lawn and garden equipment well maintained.
- Support parks and the protection of forests.

To learn more about air quality and ways you can help, go to www.cleanairpartners.net

RON PEARSON is a Facilities Support Manager and **HEATHER MELCHIOR** is manager of the Natural Resource Management Protection Section for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Edith Moore Sprouse 1923-2004

Historian, Author, Geologist and Cultural Resources Volunteer

Fairfax County lost a great friend this past January when Edith Moore Sprouse passed away.

Sprouse's love of history, spiced with spirit and tenacity, translated into a voluminous body of work that reveals Fairfax County's past with exquisite detail. She catalogued and indexed over a hundred years worth of Fairfax County government records, was instrumental in preserving Dranesville Tavern, and helped place numerous Historical Markers around Fairfax County. Her 1860 Census Project matched the names of all the citizens of the county with tax records, genealogical documents, marriage certificates, property and slave-ownership records — a boon to historians, genealogists and students.

Sprouse was a charter member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia and a charter member of the Fairfax Historic Commission.

Datum Point, newsletter for the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia, affectionately wrote of Sprouse:

We are grieving her loss in many ways and for many reasons, not only for the vast array of knowledge in her head when she passed away, but also for the friendly spirit that sparked her soul, and gentleness that left everyone crossing her path wanting to know her more and be in her presence.

Colleague Paula Casale-Spitlerand had this to say about her friend:

She was fearless. She'd search out crates and drawers that most people would take one look at and run. She'd tackle them all with her duster and patiently find them a proper home for future research.

We both shared an interest in history and geology and it was fun to ask her each week about new discoveries and adventures; what her latest writings were about; and talk about the latest episodes of the History Detectives.

Edith Sprouse at a book signing for one of her many publications.



I'll always picture her with her tools-of-the trade at hand — dusters, gloves, archival files — and clouds of historic dust flying about her. You just gotta know this lovely lady earned her wings.

Books and Publications by Edith Moore Sprouse*

Along the Potomac River: Extracts from the Maryland Gazette, 1728-1799. 2001

The Bicentennial Indexing Project of Fairfax County, Virginia, 1773-1986. 1986

Colchester: Colonial Port on the Potomac. 1975

Fairfax County in 1860: a collective biography. 1996

Historical Notes. 1962

Mount Air, Fairfax, Virginia. 1970

Nineteenth Century Fairfax County, Virginia newspapers. 1998

Officials of Fairfax County, 1749-1801. 1975

Potomac Sampler: a Historical Index to the Mount Vernon Area. 1961

*abbreviated list

Do you share a passion for history? If so, share it with others by volunteering at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly or Colvin Run Mill Historic Site in Great Falls. Lead visitor tours or guide school children in hands-on activities that will transport them to life in the past. Volunteers also work in historical collections and archaeology. For more information, call 703-324-8750 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

*In nature's infinite
book of secrecy,
a little I can read.*

— Shakespeare,
Anthony and Cleopatra

CICADAS continued from page 1

have healed. The insects are far below, out of sight, where they and their forebears have been for millions of years.

During their time underground, the trees and the cicadas have adapted to each other, perhaps to their mutual benefit. While feeding on the tree roots, the larvae excrete material which may serve some purpose. When emerging from below, the insects each leave a small hole in the ground which aerates the soil. (Lawn services charge a lot of money for the same thing.) Once above ground, the insects prove a bonanza for wildlife. At first, any animal that feeds on insects — birds, mice, possum, moles, dogs — is a little taken aback. But animals learn quickly that these things are edible and the feasting begins!

Nature still has many secrets, and I am glad of that. We are in for quite a display of one of her quirkier sides. I shall observe her goings-on with an amused eye.

Spring Jewels of Earth and Sky



Ellanor C. Lawrence Park..... 703-631-0013

Kid's Corner (3-5 yrs.) Four days a week. Reservations required. \$3. Call for dates and times. Children learn about nature and history with activities and crafts.

Wildflowers for "Wee Ones" (3-8 yrs. with adult), April 10th, 10-11am. Reservations required. \$1. Wildflower walk and craft.

Bird Hike (10 yrs. and up), May 1st, 8-10 am. Reservations required. FREE. See and hear colorful spring migrant and resident songbirds on a two-mile naturalist-led hike.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center 703-941-1065

Creature Feature (4 yrs. and up), March 13th, 1-1:45pm, Reservations required. FREE. Meet a black rat snake, a common, non-poisonous snake in our area, and learn why it is sometimes confused with a copperhead.

Trillium Trek (Adults), April 27th, 9am-4pm. Reserve by 4/22. \$12. Head to Linden, VA for the glorious display of trilliums and other wildflowers. Bring lunch. Moderate hike on rocky trail.

Shorebird Refueling (Adults), May 14th, 7am-7pm. Reserve by 5/11. \$20. Journey to the tidal marshes of the Delaware Bay at the peak of migration to view shorebirds, waterfowl and more.

Hidden Pond Nature Center 703-451-9588

Pohick Wildflower Walk, April 24th, 10:30 am-noon, FREE. Naturalist-led walk to see wildflowers, trees in bloom and other forest happenings during this relaxing walk. Reservations required.

Poet Tree (8-11 yrs.), May 1st, 1-2 pm. Reservations required. \$4. Celebrate nature's awakening with poet/author Sherri Waas Shufenthal as you create a "poet tree" using story, poetry and art.

Wetland Wednesdays in May (6 yrs. and up), 4-5 pm, on May 5, 12, 19 and 26. Reservations required. \$3 per class. In celebration of Wetland Awareness month, these delightful afternoon programs will introduce you to hands-on aquatic ecology studies. Program includes Swamp Land, Pond Life, Barker's Spring Branch, and Pohick Creek.

Get out your field guide and head to the parks to see the season's prettiest and most fascinating wildflowers, birds and animals. In addition to self-guided walks at the parks, you can enjoy dozens of daily, weekly and special event programs for all ages including excursions, naturalist-led hikes and classes. Many are free, but require reservations and others require prepayment. (Some programs are canceled if there's heavy rain.)

Huntley Meadows Park 703-768-2525

Monday Morning Bird Walks Every week. 7-9am. FREE. Join the informal gathering of Huntley's birders. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot.

Birding for Beginners — Waterfowl (Adults), March 27th, 7-10am. FREE. Sharpen your bird identification skills while birding with a park naturalist. Reservations required.

Wetlands Awareness Day May 2nd, Noon-3pm. FREE. Interpretation, presentations and a "Fun Fair" for kids. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the importance of wetlands. (Modest fee for some activities.) Sponsored by Friends of Huntley Meadows Park.

Riverbend Park 703-759-9018

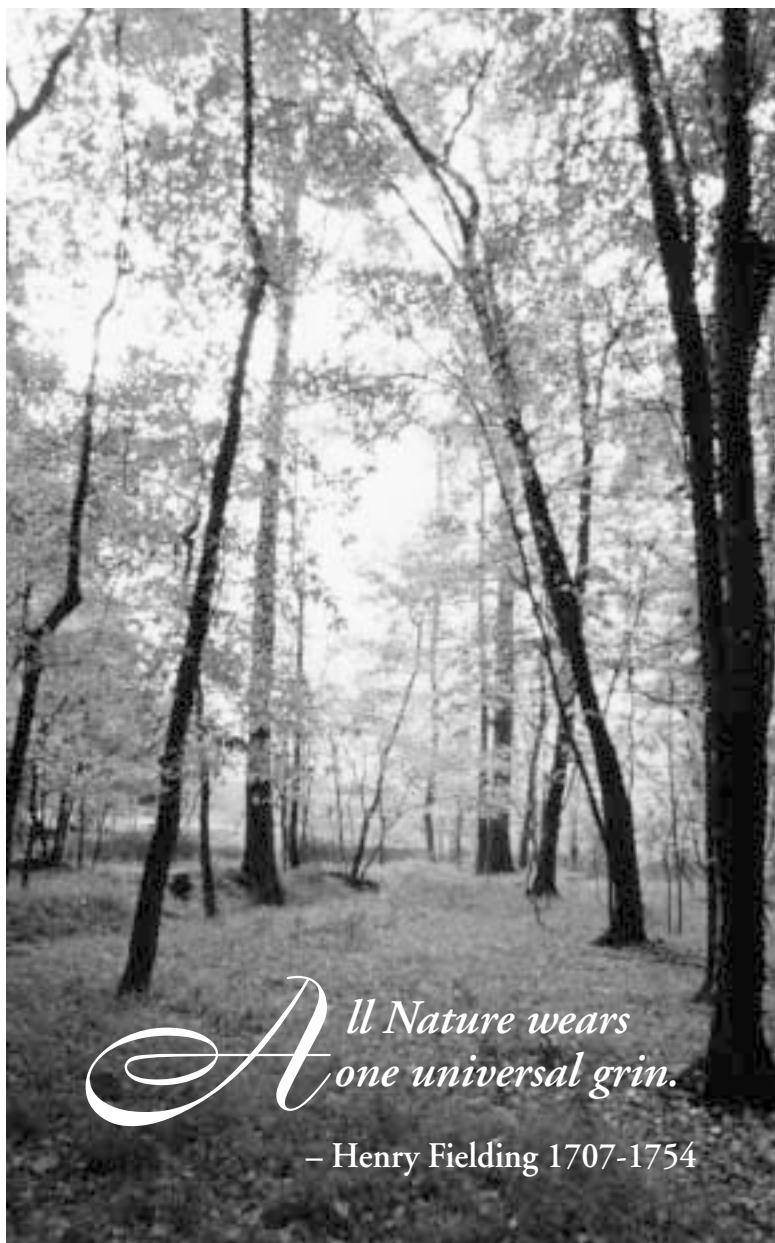
Parent and Child Sleepover (8 yrs. and up plus an adult), April 16th, 7pm Friday to 8am Saturday. Join in all-night fun. Sleep in the old log cabin, take a night hike, grill hot dogs and toast marshmallows. Reservations required. \$30 for adult and child.

Wildflower Walk — Lilies and Bells (Adults), April 17th, 9-11am. Reservations required. FREE. Hike along the river floodplain in search of the beautiful spring ephemerals that carpet the forest floor.

Night Hike and Campfire for Teens (14 yrs. and up), May 1st, 8-10pm. Discover the power, mystery and beauty of the park at night. Campfire and toasted marshmallows afterward. Bring a flashlight. Reservations and advanced payment required. \$5.

As far as I'm concerned, you just haven't lived until you've gotten out of the house and out of the mall and into some of our parks. When I'm volunteering at Huntley Meadows, or when I take out my binoculars to do some birding, it's a relaxing, terrific experience. It's exciting to see the different birds and wildflowers, and the critters in the streams. It's a spiritual feeling for me.

— Charlie Davis, Huntley Meadows Park volunteer and birder



*All Nature wears
one universal grin.*

– Henry Fielding 1707-1754



Families Cheer “Arts in the Parks” Entertainment

Every year, thousands of families turn off the video games and enjoy “Arts in the Parks,” featuring high-quality, live entertainment for children. Arts in the Parks is made possible through generous donations by the McDonald’s Corporation. Over the past 15 years, the company has contributed more than \$100,000 to fund Arts in the Parks. Caps off to Arts in the Parks and McDonald’s, Recipient of the 2003 Elly Doyle Park Service Award. “Arts in the Parks” is held rain or shine, every Saturday mornings at 10am at E.C. Lawrence Park, starting June 12 through August 21, 2004. FREE. For information, call 703-631-0013.

Find ResOURces Past Articles on the Web

Miss the article on backyard butterflies? What about the one on Scott’s Run?

Since ResOURces debuted in Fall 2000, it has featured many excellent articles written by Park Authority naturalists, historians and gardeners.

You can access past articles on ResOURces Online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources. Look in the ARTICLES INDEX or revisit entire past issues, which appear as .pdf files.

Here’s a sample of past articles you’ll find:

Nature

- Bald Eagles
- Beavers — Wildlife in Our Backyards
- Deer in the Headlights
- How Does Scott’s Run?
- Ladybug Beetles: Beautiful Backyard Bullies
- Letterboxing — Follow the Clues
- Spring Bird Migration
- Who’s Hoo in the World of Owls

History

- African American Service in the War of 1812
- Blacksmithing in Fairfax County
- Convenience in a Can
- Dranesville Tavern
- Interpreting the History of John S. Mosby
- Mount Air — Artifacts Rebuild an Era
- Preserving Your Favorite Family Photos
- Railroad Mania: The Life and Times of the Manassas Gap Railroad

Horticulture

- A Gardener’s Spring Fever
- Backyard Butterfly Bonanza
- It’s Time to Start Composting
- Keeping Turfgrass Green
- Pirates and Plants (*Horticulturist Robert Fortune*)
- Small Bulbs Make a Big Impact in Spring
- Winter Planning Sows Big Rewards
- Updating Your Landscape

A Salute to Volunteer Managers

National Volunteer Week is April 18-24, 2004.

While saluting our talented and committed volunteers, we also want to spotlight the people that make it all happen — our volunteer managers who coordinate volunteer activities.

If our volunteers are the flowers that make our parks so glorious, then our volunteer managers are the mindful gardeners, cultivating community energy and enthusiasm.

Throughout the year, this hard-working team of dedicated and skilled professionals recruits, places and schedules volunteers. They also see to volunteer training, tracking and evaluation of their activities, and recognition. Their work is not only guided by Park Authority goals, but by their sensitivity to the needs and goals of every individual volunteer (or organization) they work with. Volunteer managers, more than anyone else, are tuned in to the “voice of the community” that volunteers represent. In this way, they also serve as a bridge between the parks and citizens.

Our nature centers, historical sites, and cultural resource protection section boast more than 800 volunteers who work on a regular basis, along with hundreds of short-term volunteers for special events. Plus, there are scores of projects done with public and private partnerships. This phenomenal display of volunteerism and community involvement is possible because our volunteer managers are real experts when it comes to harnessing the energy of the community.

Thank you, volunteer managers. Your expertise and your efforts support the tremendous contribution volunteers make while contributing their time and talents.

Caps off to the following volunteer managers:

Mary Allen, *Colvin Run Mill Historic Site*
 Bob Wharton, *Cultural Resource Protection*
 Charles Smith, *Ellanor C. Lawrence Park*
 Sherry Bizette, *Frying Pan Park*
 Becky Super, *Green Spring Gardens Park*
 Janis Jeffers, *Hidden Oaks Nature Center*
 Jim Pomeroy, *Hidden Pond Nature Center*
 Ann Stat, *Huntley Meadows Park*
 Jim Dewing, *Riverbend Park*
 Rob Orrison, *Sully Historic Site*
 Erin Chernisky, *Volunteer Services Coordinator*
 Mona Enquist-Johnston, *Manager of Volunteer and Interpretive Services*

Volunteer Manager Suzanne Holland helps with activities at the Volunteer Excellence Awards Reception.



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Local history | <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeology | <input type="checkbox"/> What else? |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic sites | |

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12055 Government Center Parkway • Fairfax, VA 22035-1118
or: subscribe through our website at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources.htm

Burke Lake Park
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

Colvin Run Mill
10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

Frying Pan Park
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

Green Spring Gardens Park
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

Hidden Pond Nature Center
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

Lake Accotink Park
7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

Lake Fairfax Park
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

Riverbend Park
8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

Sully Historic Site
Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

Historic Properties Rental Services 703-938-8835

Need directions? More information?

VISIT US ONLINE AT: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

NEW PARK EXHIBITS TELL THE STORY!

Ellanor C. Lawrence

The team at Ellanor C. Lawrence is proud to launch seven new outdoor exhibits that tell the story of historic buildings and nature center structures at the park. These include an ice house, dairy, smoke house, outbuilding foundation and rain garden. The exhibits allow visitors to learn about daily life in the past and how the buildings looked in their prime.

Hidden Pond

The nature center has a fascinating new exhibit featuring live amphibians and other wildlife at Hidden Pond. The exhibits dispel myths and teach about the animals' life cycles and their role in the forest. Meet some of the critters that make their home at Hidden Pond, including snakes, turtles and frogs.

Hidden Oaks

Discover the amazing diversity of an urban woodland forest at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Through interactive stations, a new children's corner, and hands-on learning activities, parents and children alike will uncover the mysteries of life, from creatures that live underground to treetop residents. Be sure to visit the indoor turtle pond!

To learn more about spring park events and to get directions, visit us online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks



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